

The Nationally Scarce ‘Logjammer Hoverfly’ *Chalcosyrphus eunotus*, makes an appearance at Upton Warren.

Des Jennings

The walk from the Arthur Jacobs hide at the Christopher Cadbury Wetland Reserve at Upton Warren, along the River Salwarpe to the reserve entrance at the A38, is often very productive in terms of observing invertebrates. The 3rd May 2023 was no different, with mason bees, hoverflies and Odonata on show. I was taking a number of images of insects when I saw what appeared to be a ‘regular’ hoverfly sitting on vegetation at the side of the path (01). I almost passed it by because it looked so similar to others of its type but I decided to photograph it and it was then, on seeing a larger image of the species, that I felt it was a hoverfly I had not recorded before.

Later that day I consulted a field guide (Ball & Morris 2015) and Steven Falk’s Flickr site and found that my image was similar to two species found in the UK; *Chalcosyrphus eunotus* and *Brachypalpus laphriformis*, both bee mimics. There are subtle differences between the two species which are not readily visible in my image, but one that is, and possibly the most important diagnostic feature, is the presence of grey bars on the abdomen (02) of *C. eunotus* but which are lacking in *B. laphriformis*. Rather surprisingly, my field guide (Ball & Morris 2015) did not show an individual with clearly visible grey bars and the bars are not referred to in the text either, which is where consultation with Steven Falk was necessary. Steven’s images and email response confirmed the diagnostic nature of the grey bars.



01. Male *C. eunotus*. Christopher Cadbury Wetland Reserve, Upton Warren 03.05.2023. Des Jennings.



02. Male *C. eunotus* showing diagnostic abdominal grey bars (marked with red line) 03.05.2023. Des Jennings.

Chalcosyrphus eunotus is known as the Logjammer Hoverfly due to its breeding habitat of partially submerged timber in log jams in streams or rivers (03), where its larvae develop. Woodland streams, such as those in the Wyre Forest offer ideal habitat, especially where lush streamside vegetation is abundant.



03. The typical *C. eunotus* breeding habitat of fallen logs in a stream adjacent to the River Salwarpe 01.11.2023. Des Jennings.

The distribution of *C. eunotus* is intriguingly centred on the English western Midlands and eastern Wales (Map 01), with scattered records in other English locations. This limited distribution and the small window of opportunity to see the adults (April to July, peaking in late April to early May) is why even some seasoned observers are yet to record *C. eunotus*. Fortunately, Worcestershire recorders do not have to travel too far because the Wyre Forest is a reasonably well-known site. *C. eunotus* can be difficult to locate because of its breeding requirements, but you might be fortunate, like me, not to have to get your feet wet!



Map 01. UK distribution of *Chalcosyrphus eunotus*. Reproduced with permission from iRecord.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to iRecord for permission to use their Map 01.

Thanks to Steven Falk for confirmation of the diagnostic feature of *C. eunotus* via email.

References

Ball, S and Morris, R. 2015. *Britain's Hoverflies: A Field Guide*. Second Edition. Wildguides. Princeton University Press. Woodstock. iRecord website. Available at: <https://irecord.co.uk>. [Accessed 04.11.2023]
Steven Falk's Flickr site: *Collection: Syrphidae (hoverflies)*
Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/collections>. [Accessed 04.05.2023]

Images

01. Male *C. eunotus*. Christopher Cadbury Wetland Reserve, Upton Warren 03.05.2023. Des Jennings.
02. Male *C. eunotus* showing diagnostic abdominal grey bars. 03.05.2023. Des Jennings.
03. The typical *C. eunotus* breeding habitat of fallen logs in a stream adjacent to the River Salwarpe. Des Jennings.

Map 01. UK distribution of *C. eunotus* 27.10.2023. Reproduced with permission from iRecord.
